

AMSAT News Service Weekly Bulletins

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*AMSAT *News Service *ANS-067* – *March 8, 2026*

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The AMSAT News Service bulletins are a free, weekly news and information service of AMSAT, the Radio Amateur Satellite Corporation. ANS publishes news related to Amateur Radio in Space including reports on the activities of a worldwide group of Amateur Radio operators who share an active interest in designing, building, launching and communicating through analog and digital Amateur Radio satellites.

The news feed on <http://www.amsat.org> publishes news of Amateur Radio in Space as soon as our volunteers can post it.

Please send any amateur satellite news or reports to: [ans-editor \[at\] amsat.org](mailto:ans-editor@amsat.org) <<http://amsat.org>>

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<https://mailman.amsat.org/postorius/lists/ans.amsat.org/>

Kairos No. 3 Launch Failure Destroys NUTSAT-3

The third time was not the charm for Space One's Kairos rocket.

Kairos launched for the third time ever on Thursday, March 5, lifting off from Space One's Spaceport Kii in Wakayama Prefecture at 02:10 UTC (11:10 a.m. local time in Japan). But it was all over about two minutes later.

*Space One's Kairos rocket launches on its third-ever mission on March 4, 2026 from Spaceport Kii. *

Space One terminated the flight about two minutes after liftoff. (Image credit: Space One)

"Kairos No. 3 was launched on March 5, 2026, at 11:10:00 a.m., but we determined that mission success was difficult and implemented flight termination measures," Tokyo-based Space One said via X on Wednesday evening (in Japanese; translation by X).

Among the Kairos No. 3 payloads was NUTSAT-3, a 3U CubeSat created with support from National Formosa University and dedicated to amateur radio service. The satellite, was designed to provide FM voice repeater, APRS, and telemetry services to the global amateur satellite community.

In addition to the amateur radio mission, the NUTSAT-3 project was to have actively engaged students in mission data analysis, RF design performance

of satellite radio communications, and community participation by encouraging public engagement through open telemetry data.

[ANS thanks Space.com and The International Amateur Radio Union for the above information. Read the full Space.com story at <https://www.space.com/space-exploration/private-spaceflight/japan-startup-space-one-kairos-third-launch> <<https://www.space.com/space-exploration/private-spaceflight/japan-startup-space-one-kairos-third-launch>>.]

The 2026 Coins Are Here! Help Support GOLF-TEE and FoxPlus.
Annual memberships start at only \$120.
[image: Presidents' Club 2026 Coin]

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<https://www.amsat.org/join-the-amsat-presidents-club/>
<<https://www.amsat.org/join-the-amsat-presidents-club/>>*

Ten-Koh 2 to be Deployed Soon

A Japanese amateur radio satellite, launched to the International Space Station (ISS) last October, will soon be deployed in a higher orbit.

After delivering about 12,000 pounds of supplies, scientific investigations, hardware, and other cargo to the ISS for NASA and its international partners, JAXA's (Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency's) uncrewed HTV-X1 cargo spacecraft departed the ISS on Friday, March 6. The spacecraft arrived at the space station on Oct. 29, 2025, after launching Oct. 25 on an H3 rocket from Japan's Tanegashima Space Center.

The HTV-X1 spacecraft will boost itself to a 500km circular orbit where it will remain for more than three months acting as a scientific platform for JAXA's experiments.

After attaining this higher orbit, HTV-X1 will deploy Ten-Koh 2, a 6U cubesat constructed by Nihon University carrying a variety of amateur radio experiments. These will include:

- A linear transponder, developed by JAMSAT, that will operate two days each week (schedule to be announced). Transponder frequencies that have been coordinated with the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) feature an uplink in the range 145.895-145.935 MHz with downlink 435.875-435.915 MHz.
- Digitalker with pre-loaded audio to be transmitted at 435.895 MHz.
- Transmission of pre-loaded digital images created in cooperation with students from the Faculty of Arts, also at 435.895 MHz.
- Demonstration of microwave band communication technology at 5.8 GHz in the microwave band.
- Tests of high-speed data transmission at 38.4 kbps in 4FSK.

Following the deorbit command, HTV-X1 will dispose of several thousand pounds of trash from the ISS during re-entry into Earth's atmosphere, where it will burn up harmlessly. However, Ten-Koh 2 is expected to remain in orbit and active for approximately one year to 18 months.

[ANS thanks NASA and IARU for the above information.]

GridMasterMap Satellite Top 100 Rovers March 2026 Rankings

The March 2026 rankings for the Top 100 Rovers (Mixed LEO/MEO/GEO) in satellite operations, as determined by @GridMasterMap on X (formerly Twitter), have been released. The ranking is determined by the number of

grids and DXCC entities activated, taking into account only those grids where a minimum number of QSOs logged on the gridmaster.fr website have been validated by a third party. Grid numbers do not directly reflect the exact number of activations. Satellite operators are encouraged to upload their LoTW satellite contacts to <https://gridmaster.fr> in order to provide more accurate data.

Gridmaster Top Rovers for March 2026 (Updated: 2026-02-06)

1 ND9M 26 WD9EWK 51 KE0WPA 76 HB9GWJ
 2 NJ7H 27 KX9X 52 WD5GRW 77 VA7LM
 3 UT1FG 28 KG5CCI 53 KE0PBR 78 DL4EA
 4 JA9KR0 29 DJ8MS 54 XE3DX 79 N8R0
 5 N5UC 30 N5B0 55 BA8AFK 80 SP5XSD
 6 F5VMJ 31 ON4AUC 56 LU4JVE 81 N6UTC
 7 DL6AP 32 K8BL 57 W7WGC 82 N4UFO
 8 DP0POL 33 KE4AL 58 PR8KW 83 VE7PTN
 9 WI7P 34 KB5FHK 59 JK2XXK 84 PT2AP
 10 K5ZM 35 AC0RA 60 EA4NF 85 VE1VOX
 11 OE3SEU 36 PA3GAN 61 EB1A0 86 AA8CH
 12 WY7AA 37 F4BKV 62 XE1ET 87 KB2YSI
 13 LU5ILA 38 KI0KB 63 N6DNM 88 KI7UXT
 14 N6UA 39 J02ASQ 64 W8LR 89 AF5CC
 15 HA3FOK 40 KI7UNJ 65 W1AW 90 KJ7NDY
 16 OH2UDS 41 VA3VGR 66 KI7QEK 91 BI1MHK
 17 W5PFG 42 VE3HLS 67 SM3NRY 92 PT9BM
 18 AK8CW 43 BG7QIW 68 KE9AJ 93 FG80J
 19 N9IP 44 LA9XGA 69 F4DXV 94 BG5CZD
 20 AD0DX 45 HJ5LVR 70 VE1CWJ 95 YU0W
 21 AD0HJ 46 VK5DG 71 AA5PK 96 PU4CEB
 22 DL2GRC 47 N7AGF 72 AD7DB 97 W8MTB
 23 N4AKV 48 DF2ET 73 PU6JBN 98 N4DCW
 24 ND0C 49 K7TAB 74 KM4LA0 99 PS8BR
 25 BA1PK 50 JL3RNZ 75 M1DDD 100 WA9JBQ

[ANS thanks @GridMasterMap for the above information.]

 LIMITED TIME OFFER!!!

AMSAT is offering a limited-time promotion for new and renewing members that includes a free digital copy of Getting Started with Amateur Satellites. The promotion is being offered as AMSAT begins the 2026 membership year.

[image: Getting Started]

Anyone who joins or renews their AMSAT membership during the promotional period will receive a download link for the latest edition of Getting Started with Amateur Satellites in their membership confirmation email. JOIN TODAY at <https://launch.amsat.org/> <<https://launch.amsat.org/>> (Remember! Students join for FREE!)

 VUCC Satellite Standing March 2026

VUCC Satellite Award/Endorsement Change Summary for February 01, 2026 to February 28, 2026.
 Callsign Feb Mar
 PY2PIM 1200 1250

MI6GTY 1201 1202
JN2QCV 1159 1180
IK1IYU 508 900
WD9EWK(DM43) 779 781
WA3YDZ 353 401
IN3EQZ 268 316
DH0GSU 204 250
IW3SSA New 217
N6UTC(DM14) 128 150
PT2VM 126 150
LU4FW New 147
WB9PNU 115 121
WD9EWK(DM13) 116 119
AD70V New 100
BI8SSW New 100
KE5JXC New 100

Congratulations to the new VUCC Satellite holders.

IW3SSA
LU4FW
AD70V
BI8SSW
KE5JXC

IW3SSA is first VUCC Satellite holder from JN66
AD70V is first VUCC Satellite holder from DN50
BI8SSW is first VUCC Satellite holder from 0L15
KE5JXC is first VUCC Satellite holder from EL39

No DXCC Standings this month, ARRL hasn't updated it to March yet.

[ANS thanks Jon Goering, N7AZ, for the above information.]

*Want to fly the colors on your own grid expedition?Get your AMSAT car flag
and other neat stuff from our Zazzle store!*

[image: Zazzle Flag]

*25% of the purchase price of each product goes towardsKeeping Amateur
Radio in Spacehttps://www.zazzle.com/amsat_gear
<https://www.zazzle.com/amsat_gear>*

Cambodian Students Blast Off With Satellite Training

Although space technology may have not been officially introduced into the Kingdom's standard curriculum, the topic is taking center stage at the National Polytechnic Institute of Cambodia (NPIC), at the 2nd Session of the NPIC SCT Event: QO-100 and LEO Satellite Training, igniting a passion for space communication among students.

The training, from February 26 to March 3, is transforming the campus into a hub of innovation.

Building on their past success of a 12,076-kilometre transmission to Antarctica via the QO-100 satellite, this year's training elevates the challenge by focusing on Low Earth Orbit (LEO) satellites.

Students are actively engaged in hands-on learning, constructing and utilizing homemade antenna systems to track these fast-moving satellites across the sky, according to organizers.

International specialists from Japan, France and Australia are providing mentorship, guiding students through the complexities of installing ground stations and communicating with a variety of satellites, including the geostationary QO-100 and LEO satellites like RS-44 and S0-50.

*Space and satellite training during the first session at NPIC, held last year. Credit: NPIC and *The Phnom Penh Post*.*

"I wanted to show Cambodian students that space technology is accessible. Watching them successfully track an LEO satellite today proves that our youth are ready for the future," said Jorge Paulo, a French Marine Electronics and Telecommunications System expert.

Mori Mikio, an amateur radio satellite technician from Japan, emphasized the event's impact, highlighting how the real success is not just in the technical milestones, but in witnessing the passion of the participants.

"Seeing students successfully track LEO satellites with homemade antennas is a powerful reminder of why this event exists," he said.

Reth Sengvisoth, one of the organising committee members, shared his satisfaction with their efforts. He said the months of planning and coordination went into bringing this international training to life.

*[ANS thanks *The Phnom Penh Post* for the above information. Read the full article at
<https://www.phnompenhpost.com/national/cambodian-students-blast-off-with-satellite-training-programme-at-npic>
<<https://www.phnompenhpost.com/national/cambodian-students-blast-off-with-satellite-training-programme-at-npic>>.]*

AMSAT Remove Before Flight Key Tags Now AvailableYes, These are the Real Thing!

*Your \$20 Donation Goes to Help Fly a FoxPlus SatelliteIncludes First Class Postage (Sorry – U.S. Addresses Only)Order Today at
<https://www.amsat.org/product/amsat-remove-before-flight-keychain>
<<https://www.amsat.org/product/amsat-remove-before-flight-keychain>>*

Changes to AMSAT-NA TLE Distribution for March 6

Two Line Elements or TLEs, often referred to as Keplerian elements or keps in the amateur community, are the inputs to the SGP4 standard mathematical model of spacecraft orbits used by most amateur tracking programs. Weekly updates are completely adequate for most amateur satellites. TLE bulletin files are updated daily in the first hour of the UTC day. New bulletin files will be posted immediately after reliable elements become available for new amateur satellites. More information may be found at <https://www.amsat.org/keplerian-elements-resources/>.

URGENT MESSAGE: From TS Kelso of CelesTrak "[The US Space Force 18th Space Defense Squadron] will run out of 5-digit catalog numbers at 69999 not 99999, which is estimated to occur around 2026-07-20 (we're currently at 68014). At that point, newly cataloged objects will have 6-digit catalog numbers of 100000+ and GP data will not be available for them using the TLE format. CelesTrak developed new formats that removed this limitation (and finally fixed the Y2K problem) in May 2020 and immediately began providing GP data in those formats for software developers. The same limitations

apply to the legacy fixed-field SATCAT. Follow @TSKelso on Bluesky for the latest updates, tutorials, and changes as we approach this transition. Spread the word!"

AMSAT is presently alpha testing dissemination of orbital data aka "General Perturbations Data" or "GP Data" in formats that do not have the 5 digit object number limitation and will solicit public help for beta testing in April 2026. Many software packages used by hams already accept at least one of the new formats, and we would like to work through any issues before new satellites arrive without TLE sets. AMSAT will continue to disseminate TLE data for all satellites cataloged below 69999 indefinitely.

NOAA Cat ID 67291 has been *renamed* "RS95S (QMR-KWT-2)"

The following satellites have been *removed* from this week's AMSAT TLE Distribution:

RSP-03 NORAD Cat ID 65732 Decayed from orbit on or about 16 February 2026
BOTAN NORAD Cat ID 65942 Decayed from orbit on or about 03 March 2026
MO-122 NORAD Cat ID 60209 End of mission, last telemetry 25 August 2025
CEVROSAT1 NORAD Cat ID 66309 End of mission, last telemetry 09 November 2025
CO-57 NORAD Cat ID 27848 End of mission, date unknown
CO-58 NORAD Cat ID 28895 End of mission, date unknown
EO-80 NORAD Cat ID 40032 End of mission, date unknown
FloripaSat 1 NORAD Cat ID 44885 End of mission, date unknown

[ANS thanks Joe Fitzgerald, KM1P, AMSAT Orbital Elements Manager for the above information.]

[image: SDR Gen 2 Ad - 2026]

NASA Reveals Astronaut Who Required Evacuation From ISS

NASA astronaut Mike Fincke, KE5AIT, Crew-11 pilot and commander of the International Space Station's (ISS) Expedition 74, has revealed that it was his medical issue that prompted the evacuation of the four Crew-11 astronauts from the space station in January.

NASA astronaut Mike Fincke, KE5AIT (Credit: NASA)

The exact nature of his ailment remains undisclosed, but Fincke's statement clarified that the issue, while not considered an emergency, required "advanced medical imaging not available on the space station." As a result, Fincke and his crewmates – NASA astronaut Zena Cardman, KJ5CMN, Japanese space agency astronaut Kimiya Yui, KG5BPH, and Roscosmos cosmonaut Oleg Platonov – returned to Earth aboard the Crew Dragon "Endeavour" on Jan. 15, about a month earlier than originally planned.

The issue arose on Jan. 7, while Fincke and Cardman were preparing for an upcoming spacewalk. "The agency is monitoring a medical concern with a crew member that arose Wednesday afternoon aboard the orbital complex," NASA officials said in an emailed statement on Jan. 7, declining to elaborate on the nature of that concern or the astronaut it affected. Then, on Jan. 8, the agency announced that Crew-11 would end early so the issue could be addressed here on Earth.

Crew-11 splashed down aboard Endeavour in the Pacific Ocean, off the coast of San Diego, on Jan. 15, leaving a skeleton crew of three aboard the ISS.

SpaceX's Crew-12 mission was originally slated to launch in mid-February, with a typical handover period between them and Crew-11 expected after their arrival in low Earth orbit, allowing the newcomers time to acclimate to microgravity and life aboard the station. Efforts by SpaceX and NASA

allowed for an earlier target date of their Falcon 9 launch aboard Crew Dragon "Freedom," which lifted off Feb. 13 and returned the ISS to its regular crew complement of seven.

[ANS thanks Space.com for the above information. See the full article at <https://www.space.com/space-exploration/human-spaceflight/nasa-reveals-the-astronaut-who-required-1st-medical-evacuation-from-the-international-space-station> <<https://www.space.com/space-exploration/human-spaceflight/nasa-reveals-the-astronaut-who-required-1st-medical-evacuation-from-the-international-space-station>>.]

ARISS NEWS

Amateurs and others around the world may listen in on contacts between amateurs operating in schools and allowing students to interact with astronauts and cosmonauts aboard the International Space Station. The downlink frequency on which to listen is 145.800 MHz worldwide.

RECENTLY COMPLETED

Escola Naval (Brazilian Navy Academy), Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, direct via PY1AA

The ISS callsign was NA1SS

The scheduled crewmember was Sophie Adenot, KJ5LTN

The ARISS mentor was VE3TBD

Contact was successful: Mon 2026-03-02 12:17:25 UTC 49 degrees maximum elevation

Congratulations to the Escola Naval students, Sophie (her first ever ARISS contact), mentor VE3TBD, and ground station PY1AA!

Watch for Livestream at

<https://www.youtube.com/live/5mA20ppSV5w?si=EwosjCk9Ckv0qcv5>

St Joseph's Primary School, Bombala, NSW, Australia, telebridge via VK6MJ

The ISS callsign was TBD

The scheduled crewmember was Jack Hathaway, KJ5NIV

The ARISS mentor was VK4KHZ

Contact was successful: Thu 2026-03-05 08:53:18 UTC 32 degrees maximum elevation

Congratulations to the St Joseph's Primary School students, Jack (his first ever ARISS contact), mentor VK4KHZ, and telebridge VK6MJ!

UPCOMING

TBD

The crossband repeater continues to be active (145.990 MHz up {PL 67} & 437.800 MHz down). If any crewmember is so inclined, all they have to do is pick up the microphone, raise the volume up, and talk on the crossband repeater. So give a listen, you just never know.

Currently running *packet* operations at 437.825 MHz. Please note we're still in the process of troubleshooting and testing this radio. Feel free to check out status reports at https://ariss-usa.org/ARISS_APRS/.

Ham TV is currently transmitting a test signal at 2395.00 MHz. For more information, visit the ARISS Ham TV Live site at <https://live.ariss.org/hamtv/>.

As always, if there is an EVA, a docking, or an undocking; the ARISS radios are turned off as part of the safety protocol.

Note, all times are approximate. It is recommended that you do your own orbital prediction or start listening about 10 minutes before the listed time.

The latest information on the operation mode can be found at <https://www.ariss.org/current-status-of-iss-stations.html>

The latest list of frequencies in use can be found at
<https://www.ariss.org/contact-the-iss.html>

[ANS thanks Charlie Sufana, AJ9N, one of the ARISS operation team mentors for the above information]

AMSAT Ambassador Activities

[image: AMSAT Ambassador News Logo]

AMSAT Ambassadors provide presentations, demonstrate communicating through amateur satellites, and host information tables at club meetings, hamfests, conventions, maker faires, and other events.

March 21, 2026

Midwinter Madness Hamfest 2026

Maple Grove Radio Club

Buffalo Civic Center

1306 County Rd 134

Buffalo, Minnesota 55313

<https://k0ltc.org/midwinter-madness/>

KØJM, ADØHJ, KEØPBR

April 11, 2026

Tucson Area Spring Hamfest

Radio Society of Tucson

Calvary Tucson Church

8711 East Speedway

Tucson, AZ 85710

<https://k7rst.club/>

N1UW

[ANS thanks Bo Lowrey, W4FCL, Director – AMSAT Ambassador Program, for the above information.]

Satellite Shorts From All Over

+ In a statement on March 3, the Russian space agency Roscosmos said that its engineers have repaired a badly damaged launch pad at the Baikonur cosmodrome ahead of schedule, averting a potentially longer-term problem for supplying the International Space Station (ISS). The agency said a Progress cargo capsule is now scheduled to blast off to the ISS on March 22. The facility suffered a still unexplained mishap last November during the launch of a Soyuz capsule carrying two Russians and one American to the orbiting station. The pad is the only location where Russia can launch its manned Soyuz capsules, which are a mainstay transport and cargo vehicle for the station. *(ANS thanks Radio Free Europe for the above information.)*

+ SpaceX launched the 600th Starlink satellite of 2026 during predawn Falcon 9 rocket flight from Cape Canaveral on March 4. The Starlink 10-40 mission added another 29 broadband internet satellites into low Earth orbit. *(ANS thanks SpaceflightNow for the above information. See the full article at <https://spaceflightnow.com/2026/03/03/live-coverage-spacex-to-launch-29-starlink-satellites-on-falcon-9-rocket-from-cape-canaveral-10/> <<https://spaceflightnow.com/2026/03/03/live-coverage-spacex-to-launch-29-starlink-satellites-on-falcon-9-rocket-from-cape-canaveral-10/>>.)*

+ NASA announced on February 19 that it has reclassified Starliner's Crew Flight Test (CFT) as a "Type A mishap" – the most serious kind, in the same category as the space shuttle Challenger and Columbia tragedies. CFT launched on June 5, 2024, sending NASA astronauts Suni Williams, KD5PLB, and Butch Wilmore to the International Space Station (ISS) for a planned

10-day stay. Starliner reached the orbiting lab safely. On the way, however, the spacecraft suffered multiple thruster failures and temporarily lost “six degree of freedom” control – the ability to precisely maintain its desired orientation and trajectory. NASA prolonged the orbital stay of Williams and Wilmore multiple times to study Starliner’s thruster issues. In the end, the agency decided to bring the capsule home uncrewed, which occurred on Sept. 6. Williams and Wilmore, meanwhile, stayed aboard the ISS. They came home on a SpaceX Crew Dragon capsule in March 2025, having spent about nine months in space instead of the originally planned 10 days. Both have since retired from the agency. *(ANS thanks Space.com for the above information. Read the full article at <https://www.space.com/space-exploration/human-spaceflight/we-almost-did-have-a-really-terrible-day-nasa-now-says-boeings-1st-starliner-astronaut-flight-was-a-type-a-mishap> <<https://www.space.com/space-exploration/human-spaceflight/we-almost-did-have-a-really-terrible-day-nasa-now-says-boeings-1st-starliner-astronaut-flight-was-a-type-a-mishap>>.)*

Join AMSAT today at <https://launch.amsat.org/>

In addition to regular membership, AMSAT offers membership to:

- Societies (a recognized group, clubs or organization).
- Students are eligible for FREE membership up to age 25.
- Memberships are available for annual and lifetime terms.

Contact info [at] amsat.org for additional membership information.

73 and remember to help Keep Amateur Radio in Space!

This week’s ANS Editor, Mark Johns, KØJM
mjohns [at] amsat.org

ANS is a service of AMSAT, the Radio Amateur Satellite Corporation, 712 H Street NE, Suite 1653, Washington, DC 20002